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| U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO. | FIRST NAMED APPLICANT | ATTY. DOCKET NO. |
| 10/574,830 | Francois Merz | 2590-155 |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. | | |
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| 23117 | | I.A. FILING DATE |
| NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC | | PRIORITY DATE |
| 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR | | 11/04/2004 |
| ARLINGTON, VA 22203 | | |
| CONFIRMATION NO. 5002 | | |
| 371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER | | |
| | | |
| *OC000000021426096* | | |

Date Mailed: 12/01/2006

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>04/06/2006</u> | <u>04/06/2006</u> |
| DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS | DATE OF COMPLETION OF ALL 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS |

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE. *The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363).* Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Copy of the International Application filed on 04/06/2006
- English Translation of the IA filed on 04/06/2006
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 04/06/2006
- Copy of IPE Report filed on 04/06/2006
- Copy of Annexes to the IPER filed on 04/06/2006
- English Translation of Annexes to the IPE filed on 04/06/2006
- Preliminary Amendments filed on 04/06/2006
- Information Disclosure Statements filed on 04/06/2006
- Oath or Declaration filed on 04/06/2006
- Small Entity Statement filed on 04/06/2006

- Request for Immediate Examination filed on 04/06/2006
 - U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 04/06/2006
 - Priority Documents filed on 04/06/2006
 - Specification filed on 04/06/2006
 - Claims filed on 04/06/2006
 - Abstracts filed on 04/06/2006
 - Drawings filed on 04/06/2006
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Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

VONDA M WALLACE
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FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)